

# **Thirty Successes for a Positive School Environment**

## **By Dr. Ann A. Hart**

The following list of inviting and disinviting verbal comments; personal behavior, physical environments and printed signs have been identified by educators and students as indicators of the quality of life in schools.

The presence or absence of items on these lists may help to identify the inviting or disinviting stance taken by those who live and work in and around schools.

These items may also serve as a checklist for those in schools who are already doing good things and who want to do them even better.



### **Verbal Comments**

#### Inviting Comments

1. Good Morning!
2. Thanks very much.
3. Congratulations!
4. Let's talk it over.
5. How can I help?
6. Tell me about it.
7. I appreciate your help.
8. Happy Birthday!
9. I enjoy having you here.
10. I understand.

#### Disinviting Comments

1. Keep Out!
2. What Mary is trying to say is...
3. Use your head.
4. It won't work.
5. You'll have to call back.
6. You can't do that.
7. I don't care what you do.
8. Not bad, for a girl.
9. Don't be so stupid.
10. He can't be disturbed.



### **Personal Behavior**

#### Inviting Behaviors

1. A relaxed posture
2. Lending a book
3. Smiling
4. Patting a back
5. Shaking hands
6. Opening a door for someone
7. Giving a friendly wink
8. Sharing lunch together
9. Being on time
10. Sending a thoughtful note

#### Disinviting Behaviors

1. Giving a thumbs down sign
2. Interrupting
3. Looking at your watch
4. Shaking your fingers at someone
5. Scowling and frowning
6. Slamming a door
7. Using ridicule
8. Turning your back on someone
9. Cutting people short
10. Making fun of a person



## **Printed Signs**

### Inviting Signs

1. Please use sidewalks
2. Welcome
3. Visitor Parking
4. Please leave a message
5. Open, come in
6. No appointment necessary
7. Please use other door
8. Thank you for not smoking
9. Come back soon
10. Open House

### Disinviting Signs

1. Office Closed
2. Do Not Disturb
3. Keep Off Grass
4. No Trespassing
5. No Talking
6. No running in halls
7. No admission without pass
8. Visitors must report to...
9. No Smoking
10. No Admittance